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**CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-CLIENT  
PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION**

Date: SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

To: EXAMINER SHEFALI D. PATEL  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Fax #: (703) 872-9314

From: DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS  
Fax #: (847) 905-7111

Client/Matter No.: PHF 99,548 (7790/275)

# of Pages: 17  
(including cover sheet)

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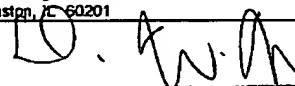
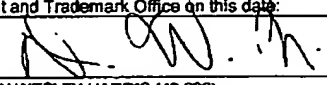
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Attorney Docket No.	PHF 99,548 (7790/275)
	Application Number	09/587,394
	Filing Date	JUNE 5, 2000
	First Named Inventor	RAOUL FLORENT
	Group Art Unit	2621
	Examiner	PATEL, SHEFALI D.

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response to a Non-Final Office Action Dated May 8, 2003 <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Month Petition for Extension of Time Request (duplic) <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, art <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings: <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request of Refund  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)  <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Post Card Receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute Specification (Marked Up Version) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute Specification (Clean Version) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Drawing Sheet 1/3

## CALCULATION OF FEE

				Small Entity		Large Entity	
Claims After Amendment	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	or	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total	Minus	0	x \$9=	0		x \$18=	
Indep.	Minus	0	x \$42	0		x \$84	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim			+ \$140	—		+ \$280=	
				total add'l fee	\$ 0	total add'l fee	\$

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS Registration No. 40,636 CARDINAL LAW GROUP 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 2000 Evanston, IL 60201		
Signature		Date	September 8, 2003
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Signature		Date:	September 8, 2003
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DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS (40,636)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative  
D. W. H.  
Signature  
September 8, 2003  
Date of Signature

PATENT  
Case No. PHF 99,548  
(7790/275)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

RAOUL FLORENT

Serial No.: 09/587,394

Filed: JUNE 5, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD  
AND SYSTEM, AND MEDICAL  
EXAMINATION APPARATUS,  
FOR EXTRACTING A PATH  
FOLLOWING A THREADLIKE  
STRUCTURE IN AN IMAGE

Examiner: PATEL, SHEFALI d

Group Art Unit: 2621

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**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 8, 2003**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to a Non-Final Office Action dated May 8, 2003, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

September 8, 2003  
Case No. PHF 99,548 (7790/275)  
Serial No.: 09/587,394  
Filed: June 5, 2000  
Page 2 of 14

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The Applicant thanks Examiner Patel for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.